



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Selectmen's Minutes 12-03-2007

TOWN OF ARLINGTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 3, 2007

7:15 p.m.

Present: Mrs. Mahon, Vice Chair, Mr. Hurd and Ms. Rowe

Absent: Ms. LaCourt, Chair and Mr. Greeley

Also present: Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Maher and Mrs. Krepelka

7:15 p.m.

1. Property Classification – Tax Rate

Chairman Mary Winstanley C'Connor, Kevin Feeley, members of the Board of Assessors and Director of Assessment Robert Greeley appeared before the Board regarding the setting of the Property Classification – Tax Rate.

Chairman O'Connor stated that the Town had always followed the policy of one tax rate. Mr. Jamieson spoke as a representative of Vision 2020 relative to materials he presented to the to the Board of Selectmen stating that Vision 2020 is in favor of a classified tax rate.

The Board of Selectmen voted to continue the long-standing policy of adopting a residential factor of one which means all taxable property will be taxed at the same rate. The new tax rate is \$11.45 per thousand dollars of valuation. Director of Assessments Robert Greeley stated that the total assessed value in Arlington was down slightly from the previous fiscal year.

Chairman O'Connor then stated that the Assessors had not received the materials that Mr. Jamieson and Vision 2020 presented to the BOS, and Mrs. Mahon asked the Board Administrator to send said copy to the Board of Assessors.

Mr. Hurd moved approval

SO VOTED (3-0)

FOR APPROVAL

2. CONSENT AGENDA (one vote required for approval of all items)

a. Minutes of Meeting: November 26, 2007

b. REAPPOINTMENTS

Reappointment: Human Rights Commission

Victoria Cohen

(term to expire 1-3-11)

Reappointment: Trust Fund Commission

Augusta Haydock

(term to expire 12/3/10)

Mr. Hurd moved approval.

SO VOTED (3-0)

APPOINTMENTS

3. Appointment: Cemetery Commission

William McCarthy
(term to expire 12/3/10)

Mr. Hurd moved approval. SO VOTED (3-0)

Mrs. Mahon stated she would like Mr. McCarthy to appear before the Selectmen at a time that was convenient for him.

Mr. Hurd stated that Mr. McCarthy would be a great addition to the Cemetery Commissioners.

8:00 p.m.

4. Debt Shift

The Board voted to follow the existing policy to freeze the water and debt shift.
moved approval. SO VOTED (3-0)

Mr. Hurd

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

Any matter presented for consideration of the Board shall neither be acted upon, nor a decision made the night of the presentation in accordance with the policy under which the Open Forum was established.

Mr. Jamieson thanked Christine Connolly and Brian Sullivan for a wonderful job conducting the flu clinic on Saturday, December 1st.

He spoke about the Community Collection Day on Saturday, November 17, 2007. The following staffers included Ruth Yannetti, DPW., Mary Delahanty, Recycling Coordinator, Arlington Recycling Committee volunteers included Beverly Brinkerhoff, Anneli Mynttinen and daughter Katia, Elizabeth Heichler, Ian MacCarn, Nigel Kraus, Adrian Wheelock and Gordon Jamieson.

Collection effort included Bikes -- 66 were collected for distribution worldwide.

Books collected totaled 2,210 lbs. or 1,105 tons of books, CDs, DVDs and other items.

Northeast Data Destruction provided paper shredder services and collected about 3,000 lbs.

Planet Aid -- collected clothes, shoes and sneakers.

Returnable cans/bottles (deposit) collected for Recreation Department Scholarship Fund.

Recycling bins distributed as needed (60-plus blue bins).

DPW staff collected 2 small containers of CRT/monitors as well as propane tanks.

Mr. Jamieson noted that 24/7 paper and newspaper could be left at bin at the DPW/Town Yard on Grove Street (NO CARDBOARD).

Mrs. Mahon, Ms. Rowe and Mr. Hurd thanked Mr. Jamieson for all his efforts in coordinating Community Collection Day.

Debt Shift takes effect in January. Mr. Jamieson suggested keeping the water rate flat for a couple of years. If billed quarterly we would have a one-time working capital gain. A bit more gain may be achieved if the grace period is also reduced (to 30 days) in addition to the use of quarterly billing. If the time to prepare and mail the bill were reduced additional working capital efficiencies would be expected. The sheet provided assumes the following: a one-time minimum three-month gain in collections. Non-MWRA debt annual costs for W/S of \$12 Million, costs of implementation (\$50K) for meter reading -- prep, postage, and collections. All costs to be borne by W/S enterprise fund so this should be operating budget neutral.

Analysis suggests that a two to three year halt in annual W/S increases (scheduled to be 5%) may be achieved. By the end of this period it is hoped that quarterly billing, bill prep and collections costs will be reduced thru the implementation of automated meter reading and electronic payment methodologies.

Mrs. Mahon asked that a copy of Mr. Jamieson's report being given to the Board of Selectmen, Town Treasurer, Town Comptroller, Town Manager, and the Director of Public Works.

Mr. Hurd moved receipt of said report. SO VOTED (3-0)

Any member of the Board may feel free to discuss said report with Ms. LaCourt.

Correspondence Received

Gordon Jamieson Fiscal Resource Task Group Request-MBTA Meeting Be Rec'd
Vision 2020

Ms. Mahon asked that Mr. Jamieson work with Ms. LaCourt to invite the MBTA to appear before the Board of Selectmen in January or February to provide feedback regarding the services it provides to the Town.

Peter Szerlag Traffic Issues-Winslow Towers Be Rec'd
Winslow Towers Tenants Assoc., President

Ms. Rowe asked that Mr. Szerlag's letter be referred to the Transportation Advisory Board.

Carrie Finison Traffic Issues-Winter Street Be Rec'd
11 Winter Street

Ms. Rowe asked that Ms. Finison's letter be referred to the Transportation Advisory Board.

Mr. Hurd moved receipt of correspondence. SO VOTED (3-0)

New Business:

Mr. Maher asked the Board to serve notice of the opening of the Warrant on December 17th at 8:00 a.m. and will remain open until 12 Noon on Friday, January 11, 2008.

Mr. Hurd moved approval subject to change after talking to Chairman LaCourt. SO VOTED (3-0)
Board Administrator will advertise on Web site.

Mr. Sullivan stated that the Department of Housing and Community Development will hold public hearings during the week of December 10th on new regulations for Chapter 40B. The MMA will be submitting formal comments for DHCD consideration and Mr. Sullivan will be submitting comments. If any Selectmen would like to have their comments submitted, please forward to Mr. Sullivan as soon as possible. Mr. Hurd will be the Selectmen's representative to attend with Mr. Sullivan.

Ms. Rowe reminded everyone that there is a Robbins Farm Green Dog meeting Thursday, December 6th, at 8:00 p.m., Selectmen Hearing Room.

Ms. Rowe stated that she had talk to the Conservation Commission regarding a volunteer with the solar team from MIT. Said volunteer would like to look at the possibilities of retrofitting Mt. Gilboa as a model alternative energy home.

Ms. Rowe stated the Board of Selectmen owes George Laite a thank you for his many years of services as Aide to Senator Havern. She hopes he continues working in some capacity at the state level for the people of Arlington.

Mr. Hurd thanked everyone involved in making the Town Awards Presentation a spectacular night. He stated that the Nomination Committee did an outstanding job and wanted once again to congratulate everyone including the four town employees who were presented awards. He also wanted to thank the AHS Madrigal Singers along with their conductor Cheryl Hemenway Cristo for making the evening a success. Hopefully, Selectmen Hurd stated we could do these awards every three to five years.

Mrs. Mahon stated that the award night was a great success and she has heard nothing but great compliments. She stated that all the credit goes to Mr. Hurd and Mr. Greeley.

Pop Warner Cheerleaders are in Disney World, Florida competing for the National Champs- 9 to 11 year olds. This group was the 2006 National Champs.

Mrs. Mahon would like Mr. Sullivan to request that the Town of Arlington host a MMA Meeting in the future.

Mrs. Mahon would like to see on a future Agenda an invitation to Sustainable Arlington to come in with an action report/ goals so we can get as green as we can. Also, she asked Mr. Sullivan how the bike path worked out with plowing, etc. during the recent snowstorm

Mr. Hurd moved to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. SO VOTED (3-0)

A True Record: Attest:

Respectfully submitted by Marie A. Krepelka

Next meeting of BOS Monday, December 17, 2007.

